



From left, Kiara Ranallo, Ariel Ray and Sydney Eggleston attend the tea party.



## 'Leading Ladies' of Raymond host tea party

In November, Raymond Elementary School hosted the first annual "Leading Ladies" of Raymond tea party for a group of girls and their mothers.

Two girls per classroom and six others were randomly selected for the social skills group, which is designed and facilitated by a team. The team includes principal, **Tara Scott**, first grade parent liaison **Alicia Lenczewski** and behavior coach/Applewood therapist, **Toya Owens-Hodge**.

The girls engaged in skill-building activities over the first eight weeks. Topics included manners, etiquette, making friends and behavior choices. The tea party was a culminating activity, which gave the students the opportunity to apply their new skills.

All ladies arrived in formal dresses. Beautiful hats were available for the girls and their guests. Tables were set with fine linen and beautiful china. Guests sipped a variety of teas, enjoyed "traditional" tea sandwiches and white frosted cupcakes with gold sparkles for dessert.

Special guests included Superintendent. **Charles Keenan**, Supervisor **Marcia Michalak** and Board of Education member **Pamela Crews**.

Each "Leading Lady" received a copy of *A Smart Girl's Guide to Manners* donated by Applewood Centers Inc., and the opportunity to serve as a role model for all Raymond students.

All ladies wore formal dresses to the tea party.



# Community Connection

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# Maple Heights City Schools Community Connection

News for the community about the Maple Heights City Schools

## Frequently Asked

questions about the opportunity to build new schools in Maple Heights



Maple Heights parent James Harris and high school teacher Dale Walter are co-chairing the Bond Leadership Committee, which is made up of a large group of community members, teachers and staff. Community and school events to publicize the bond issue will be announced soon.

## Voters asked to approve March 4 bond levy

On Tuesday, March 4, voters in Maple Heights will be asked to approve a 28-year, 7.8-mill bond issue to finance the district's portion of the cost of building five new schools.

The State of Ohio will pay 51 percent of the total—estimated at just over \$109 million—and the citizens of Maple Heights will pay 49 percent.

### Q: What is the estimated cost of the entire project?

**A:** Total cost of the Master Plan is just over \$109 million, according to estimates by the Ohio Schools Facilities Commission. The State of Ohio will provide 51 percent (\$55.6 million) of the funding if the district provides 49 percent (\$53.4 million). The proposed bond issue, which includes \$2.2 million to meet classroom space needs for current enrollment, totals 7.8 mills over 28 years.

### Q: How much will the owner of a \$100,000 home pay in additional taxes?

**A:** A homeowner will pay about \$237 a year. This is less than \$20 a month to build five new schools in Maple Heights.

### Q: What's the timeline for this funding opportunity?

**A:** Right now! We have one calendar year in which to pass a bond levy to raise our local share. That's why the issue is on the March 4 ballot.

### Q: What's in the Master Plan?

**A:** Build five new buildings including:

- Pre-Kindergarten – Grade 1
- Grades 2 and 3
- Grades 4 and 5
- Middle School for grade 6, 7 and 8
- High School for grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 and Career-Tech

Abate and demolish Dunham, Raymond, Rockside and Stafford elementary schools, Milkovich Middle School, West Junior High School and Maple Heights High School.

### Q: Why does the OSFC think Maple Heights needs new schools?

**A:** After conducting an extensive study of our buildings and hearing local input, the OSFC made its recommendations in a Master Plan. That plan shows that the cost of renovating our buildings would cost more than replacing them. If we accept state funding, we must comply completely and cannot modify the plan or pick and choose certain projects.



## Superintendent's message

## Details about the new schools

Over the past two months, I've heard positive reactions to our news about the fantastic opportunity to build five new schools in Maple Heights. Thanks to a special state program resulting from a settlement with tobacco companies, our district has the potential of receiving about \$53 million in state funds—or 51 percent of the estimated cost.

Of course, we must agree to pay our share. That 49 percent totals 7.8 mills over 28 years. Voters will be asked to approve this bond issue on Tuesday, March 4.

Our school buildings are in bad shape, and the extensive study done by the state makes this clear. Our high school was built in 1920 and Stafford Elementary dates to 1930. Other buildings were constructed in the 1950s. There is no doubt that soon we will have to ask you for funds to replace or renovate our schools. By taking advantage of this opportunity, the state will pay for more than half the cost.

Many decisions about the look of the new buildings have not been made. But our new schools will be energy efficient, filled with natural light and definitely be handicapped accessible. Designs will include the latest in technology, beautiful libraries and inviting classrooms.

Please call me at 216-587-6100, ext. 3001, with any questions.

Dr. Charlie Keenan  
Superintendent of Schools

## News from Maple Heights High School

### Freshman Academy hosts parent, community dialogues

Freshman Academy students and staff designed and planned two half-day sessions in November to discuss student attitudes about issues such as respect, school safety, self-esteem and peer-to-peer relationships in a meaningful format.

According to Assistant Principal **Shon Smith**, parents, students, teachers and community members participated in small and large group team-building activities. "Each year, we dedicate this time to create dialogues to improve student attitudes about these issues," Smith says.

### Community 1 extends classroom experience

In November, Community 1 teachers **Pamela Eason, Julie Miller, Lynne Motyka** and **Tamaha Taylor** collaborated to take 70 students to view the movie *Beowulf*. This is one of the unique experiences teachers have created for seniors.

In February, one hundred students will visit the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton. This is part of their study of African American influence on the National Football League. Guest speakers will include **Warren Moon** and other African American contributors to the NFL.

The senior Spanish class plans to visit the Cleveland Art Museum to view an art exhibit with teacher **Brook Benko**.

### Community 2 recognizes Honor, Merit Roll students

Fifty-one students from Community 2 who made the Honor Roll were recognized in front of their peers and teachers at a special assembly. Forty-nine other students, who made the merit roll for the first grading period, were also honored.

According to Assistant Principal **James Hull**, these students represent nearly 30 percent of the students in Community 2.

In addition, students in **Mike Green's** Honors English class have been actively engaged with a long-term "Me Project." They have submitted creative works to a "GenerationNext" contest sponsored by the Cuyahoga County Public Library.

Visit Community 2's weblog at <http://com2mhhs.edublogs.org/> for more news and updates.

### Community 3 rewards outstanding students

Nearly 25 percent of Community 3 students were honored at an assembly, which recognized their first quarter achievements, specifically in math, English, science, social studies, art, business and GRADS. In addition, students were also honored for attendance and overall citizenship.

Students were identified by their teachers, counselor and community principal. Each student received a certificate and a coupon for free or discounted food from the school cafeteria.

The next awards assembly will be held Wednesday, February 13, in the high school auditorium. **Dale Walter**, Community 3 social studies teacher, and **Gretchen Tucker-See**, Community 3 guidance counselor, are co-chairing the event. Students will be recognized for their athletic participation, academics, citizenship and school leadership.

### High school teachers working on building relationships

Teachers are reading the book *Understanding Poverty* by **Ruby Payne** to increase staff awareness and increase the opportunity to foster stronger student relationships.



Teacher Casey Oberhauser helps a student.

## Middle School mini-grant helps start professional book club

Casey Oberhauser, Milkovich language arts teacher and a teacher consultant for the National Writing Project, recently received a \$300 mini-grant from the National Writing Project.

Funds will be used to form a Professional Learning Community of 13 members whose purpose is to become more knowledgeable, well-rounded and effective as educators. The idea was inspired by the article "12 Books Every Teacher Should Read" by Caralee Adams, published in the November/December issue of *Instructor* magazine.

Each of the 13 members of the PLC will read one of the books and develop an hour-long presentation, highlighting key ideas and strategies. Presentations will be made at weekly meetings after school. All staff members are welcome to attend meetings.

## Stafford students reach out to the community

Stafford students spread holiday cheer last month when they visited the Broadway Care Center.

Sounds of laughter and shuffling cards filled the room as members of Stafford's Student Council visited the care center to play games, share stories and spend time with the residents. They also shared a powdered doughnut or two and helped serve lunch.

This was the first community service project for the leadership group this year. Many students said they would like to return in the spring, and plans for a community clean-up program are being discussed.

According to fourth grader **Dominique Daniel**, "I enjoy seeing the smiles on faces. It felt great to help people in my community!"



Stafford students Dominique Daniel and Essance Hall



## Milkovich volleyball team finishes with winning record

Milkovich's eighth grade girls volleyball team finished 11-6 this fall. According to Coach **Joe Wiegand**, the winning team featured a number of inexperienced players and three seventh graders. No other split-grade team in the league posted a winning record.

In addition, the team finished the season with a team grade point average of 3.3. "Now, those are student athletes," says Wiegand.

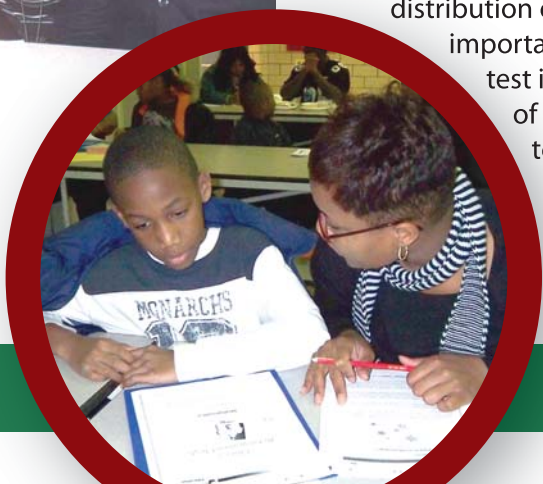


Jonathan Stallworth and Alliyah Wimberly

## OAT night held at Rockside

Third grade students and parents at Rockside Elementary heard all about the OAT, or Ohio Achievement Test, at a dinner meeting in December.

Organized by Interim Principal **Zelina Pames** and the third grade team, the agenda included distribution of information about the important test. Parents took a sample test in order to see what is expected of their children. Third grade teachers presented parents with testing strategies and tips. **Kayla Thompson** and **Cameron Shy** won a homework help box filled with school supplies.



## Rockside students win PD contest

Rockside Elementary third graders **Jonathon Stallworth** and **Alliyah Wimberly** recently won a holiday card contest sponsored by the Cleveland Plain Dealer and the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Wimberly won "Best Message" and Stallworth won "First Place." The two students in Ann Krutko's class had their cards printed in the newspaper and received tickets to a Cavs' game.